

CLAIMS

1. A signal processing system for processing signals outputted from a pointing device, the pointing device comprising a detection means capable of outputting respective detection signals outputted by operating an operation console in plus and minus directions, along an x-axis and/or y-axis thereof, respectively, in such a way as to identify whether an operation is in either the plus direction or the minus direction, along the x-axis and/or y-axis, respectively, or in both the plus and minus directions, along the x-axis and/or y-axis, respectively, a first outputting means for fetching the detection signals outputted by the operation in either the plus direction or the minus direction, along the x-axis and/or y-axis, respectively, from the detection means, and a second outputting means for fetching the detection signals outputted by the operations in both the plus and minus directions, along the x-axis and/or y-axis, respectively, wherein the signal processing system processes the output signal of the first output means as a shifting operation signal of a pointer, and processes an output signal of the second output means as a clicking operation signal of the pointer.

2. A signal processing system according to Claim 1, wherein said detection means comprises a first resistance element which is changed in resistance value in response to a load applied to the device by operating the operation console in the plus direction along the x-axis and/or y-axis, and a second resistance element which is serially connected to the first resistance element and changed in

resistance value in response to a load applied to the device by operating the operation console in the minus direction along the x-axis and/or y-axis, wherein a power supply is fed to one end of the serially connected circuits, and a terminal connected to a node between the resistance elements forms the first output means, while a terminal connected to the end of a power supply side of the serially connected circuits forms the second output means.

3. A signal processing system according to Claim 1, further comprising a first switching circuit for switching over between the shifting operation signal in the x-axis direction and the shifting operation signal in the y-axis direction to thereby output the switched shifting operation signal, a first operational amplifier for amplifying the shifting operation signal in the x-axis direction and the shifting operation signal in the y-axis direction, respectively, outputted from the first switching circuit, a second operational amplifier for amplifying the clicking operation signal, a second switching circuit for switching over between the output signals of the first and second amplifiers to thereby output the switched output signal, and a controller for controlling the first and second switching circuits, wherein the controller executes control of switchover such that the first switching circuit outputs the shifting operation signal in the x-axis direction and the shifting operation signal in the y-axis direction alternately for every predetermined period, and the second switching circuit outputs the output signals of the first and second amplifiers alternately for

every predetermined period.

4. A signal processing system according to Claim 1, further comprising switching circuits for switching over between the shifting operation signal in the x-axis direction and the shifting operation signal in the y-axis direction, and the clicking operation signal to thereby output the switched signal, amplifiers for amplifying the shifting operation signal in the x-axis direction, the shifting operation signal in the y-axis direction, and the clicking operation signal, respectively outputted from the switching circuits, and a controller for controlling the switching circuits, wherein the controller executes control of switchover between the shifting operation signals and the clicking operation signal so that the switching circuits output the shifting operation signal in the x-axis direction, the shifting operation signal in the y-axis direction and the clicking operation signal circularly for every predetermined period.

5. A signal processing system according to Claim 1, further comprising a first amplifier for amplifying the shifting operation signal in the x-axis direction, a second amplifier for amplifying the shifting operation signal in the y-axis direction, a third amplifier for amplifying the clicking operation signal, switching circuits for switching over between output signals of the first to third amplifiers to thereby output the switched signal, and a controller for controlling the switching circuits, wherein the controller executes control of switchover between the output signals

of the first to third amplifiers so that the switching circuits output the shifting operation signal in the x-axis direction, the shifting operation signal in the y-axis direction and the clicking operation signal circularly for every predetermined period.

6. A signal processing system according to Claim 1, further comprising a current mirror circuit for copying the clicking operation signal.

7. A signal processing system according to Claim 6, further comprising a first amplifier for amplifying the shifting operation signal in the x-axis direction, a second amplifier for amplifying the shifting operation signal in the y-axis direction, a current-voltage converter for converting an output current of the current mirror circuit into a voltage, a third amplifier for amplifying an output signal of the current-voltage converter, switching circuits for switching over between output signals of the first to third amplifiers to thereby output the switched signal, and a controller for controlling the switching circuits, wherein the controller executes control of switchover such that the switching circuits output the shifting operation signal in the x-axis direction, the shifting operation signal in the y-axis direction and the clicking operation signal circularly for every predetermined period.

8. A signal processing system according to Claim 6, further comprising a first amplifier for amplifying the shifting operation signal in the x-axis direction, a second amplifier for amplifying the shifting operation signal in the y-axis direction, switching

circuits for switching over between output signals of the first and second amplifiers to thereby output the switched signal, an oscillator undergoing change in oscillation frequency in response to an output current of the current mirror circuit, a frequency measuring circuit for measuring the oscillation frequency of the oscillator, and a controller for controlling the switching circuits, wherein the controller executes control of switchover such that the switching circuits output the shifting operation signal in the x-axis direction and the shifting operation signal in the y-axis direction alternately for every predetermined period.